



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MMSR
24 Jan 96

WHITE LETTER NO. 01-96

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge
All Sergeants Major

Subj: MARINE CORPS RETIREES

1. As I stated in the CPG, the two most important things the Marine Corps does for our Nation are to make Marines and to win battles. To ensure that this tradition continues we must maximize the use of the Marines our predecessors have made — our Marine Retirees. They are a crucial element in re-invigorating "grass roots" support for our Corps.

2. Throughout our years of service to the Corps, we become accustomed to the way the Corps accepts the challenge of assisting Marines in all areas. Whether on the battlefield or in the area of administrative counseling or family assistance, we have earned the right to say "we take care of our own." This feeling of "family" should not be lessened simply because a Marine has retired. Retired Marines are an integral part of the Marine Corps Total Force, and we should continue to treat them as such. They have made, and will continue to make, tremendous contributions to our Country and Corps. We draw from their ranks for expertise, wisdom, and mobilization during times of conflict. We must ensure that this valuable resource is not ignored. Retired Marines bring a wealth of experience and are anxious to lend a hand.

3. It's essential that we remind our retired Marines that they are a functioning part of the Corps — that they have our constant support. We can begin by passing the word that we'll continue to do everything in our power to ensure they receive all the privileges and benefits earned by their faithful service and sacrifices. Avenues currently in place to disseminate information include the "Semper Fidelis, Memorandum for Retired Marines," our Retired Activities Offices, and the Retired Marine Luncheon Program. I charge each of you to use these outlets to expand our information base and to construct additional avenues to enhance the flow of information to and from your locations.

4. We are all concerned by what seems to be an erosion of benefits throughout the retired community. We must assure our retired Marines they are still highly respected not only for contributions made, but also for contributions they continue to make. Be proactive and ensure that our retired Marines are both recognized and utilized as an integral part of our Total Force.

C. C. KULAK